

Wilhelm Wundt and the Making of a Scientific Psychology. R. W. Rieber, Ed. Plenum, New York, 1980. xii, 249 pp. \$24.50. PATH in Psychology series.

Women and the Mass Media. Sourcebook for Research and Action. Matilda Butler and William Paisley. Human Sciences Press, New York, 1980. 432 pp. Paper, \$9.95.

The Society for Personality Assessment

The Society for Personality Assessment (SPA) was founded in 1937 as "The Rorschach Institute, Inc." by Bruno Klopfer and a group of his students. The Society is a collegial organization dedicated to the advancement of professional personality assessment — to the development of procedures and concepts of personality assessment and the ethical and responsible use of these techniques.

Historically, the Society has had four basic objectives: 1) to provide an annual assembly of the membership for the purpose of sharing research findings and clinical experiences, 2) to disseminate the new findings through the publication of a journal, 3) to organize and coordinate research projects and 4) to establish, review and endorse training and professional standards.

Initially the major focus of the organization was upon the Rorschach Test. The Rorschach was then a new procedure in the United States, taught only by David Levy in Denver, Samuel Beck in Chicago, Marguerite Hertz in Cleveland, and Bruno Klopfer in New York. During those early years, training in the Rorschach was not widespread, there was minimal use of the Rorschach in many clinical facilities, and there were inconsistent standards concerning the qualifications necessary to use the Rorschach procedure. *The Rorschach Research Exchange*, a mimeographed newsletter, and workshops sponsored by the Rorschach Institute were the primary vehicles for sharing information, research findings and clinical experience with the new technique and for providing training.

During the early 1940s the focus of the organization broadened to encompass all "projective tests," for by that time the Rorschach was considered to be a procedure which would be included under that larger rubric. In 1948, the name of

the Society was changed to "The Society for Projective Techniques and the Rorschach Institute," and eventually, in 1960, the title was shortened to the "Society for Projective Techniques." This change, beginning around 1940, reflected an effort to include other projective methods such as the Thematic Apperception Test in its various forms, drawing procedures, and the Bender Gestalt into the areas covered by both the *Journal* and the Society. About this time there were also further attempts to establish professional standards and to develop guidelines for the use of projective techniques. Different levels of membership in the Society were established such as Member, Associate, and Fellow in order to provide quasi-certifying criteria in the area.

In 1964, the name of the *Journal* was altered to *Journal of Projective Techniques and Personality Assessment* in recognition of the fact that the distinction between "projective" and "objective" techniques was artificial and that there was a need to encourage a broader based exchange about issues in personality assessment in the various activities of the Society including the *Journal* and the Annual Meeting. This broader scope of the Society was finally formalized in 1971 by altering the name of the Society to the "Society for Personality Assessment" and changing the name of the *Journal* accordingly. In the past decade, from 1970 to 1980, membership in the Society and articles in the *Journal* have come to reflect the entire spectrum of issues present in contemporary personality assessment.

The Society currently conducts semi-annual meetings, one at the meetings of the American Psychological Association in early September and an independent meeting in mid-March, publishes a professional journal (the *Journal*

of *Personality Assessment*), and arranges public workshops and other professional activities to advance the field of personality assessment. To further public and professional understanding of the field of personality assessment, the Society recognizes those members who have made a substantive contribution to the field by awarding them Fellowship status, and by sponsoring an annual Bruno Klopfer Memorial Award for outstanding, long-term professional contributions to the field of personality assessment. Recipients of this award include:

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|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1965 | 1973 |
| Samuel Beck | William Henry |
| 1966 | 1974 |
| Bruno Klopfer | Louise Bates Ames |
| 1967 | 1975 |
| Henry Murray | Silvan Tomkins |
| 1969 | 1976 |
| Robert Holt | Edwin Shneidman |
| 1970 | 1977 |
| Marguerite Hertz | Albert Rabin |
| 1971 | 1978 |
| Zygmunt Piotrowski | Roy Schafer |
| 1972 | 1979 |
| Molly Harrower | Paul Meehl |
| 1980 | |
| John E. Exner, Jr. | |

Over the years, the focus and objectives of the Society have gradually shifted away from an organization concerned with establishing guidelines for the qualification for membership in the Society to a special interest group who are concerned with promoting an effective exchange of ideas about the role of personality assessment in research and clinical activities.

Information about the Society may be obtained from:

The Society for
Personality Assessment, Inc.
1970 East Angeleno Avenue
Burbank, California 91501

PLAN AHEAD
for
TENTH INTERNATIONAL RORSCHACH CONGRESS
September 4-7, 1981 — Washington, D.C.

Information and preregistration forms are available from:

10th International Rorschach Congress
11 Beaver Drive
Bayville, New York 11709